

National Arboretum

3501 New York Avenue, N.E.

Bladensburg Road & R Street, NE (Entrances on New York Avenue and on R Street)

Northeast Washington, D.C.

Metro Stop: None

Directions may be found [here](#) .



The [National Arboretum](#) was established in 1927 and its primary function is to conduct research, provide education, and to conserve and display trees, shrubs, flowers, and other plants to enhance the environment.

Nine miles of roadways wind through and connect the array of display gardens, collections, and historical monuments set among native stands of eastern deciduous trees on the Arboretum's 446 acres. The first and most popular exhibit, the [azaleas](#) , was the product of pioneering research of the first director.

The [National Grove of State Trees](#) collection contains trees representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Each of the trees on display was actually acquired from the state it represents. The Grove covers 30 acres with trees spaced widely enough to accommodate their mature dimensions. The state trees are interspersed among various other trees that grow on the site prior to the development of the area as the National Grove of State Trees.



When the U.S. Capitol building was expanded in the 1950s, [22 34-foot Corinthian columns](#) were removed and were later moved to a setting on a knoll near the main entrance of the Arboretum.

Visitors can tour the grounds by vehicle, bicycle, or on foot. Small parking areas are near most of the major collections. For visitors on foot, there are four beautiful areas that are easily accessible and situated adjacent to each other-the Aquatic Garden and Koi Pond, the Friendship Garden, the National Herb Garden, and the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum. For serious hikers, there are many intriguing trails throughout the Arboretum. [Tram tours](#) are available on weekends and holidays from mid-April through mid-October.

Times of Operation

The Arboretum grounds are open every day of the year, except December 25, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is free. The National Bonsai and Penjing Museum, located on the grounds, is open daily, except [certain holidays](#) , from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For additional information, call (202) 245-2726.

There is no food service available on-site, but visitors may bring a picnic lunch when visiting the Arboretum. Picnic tables are located in the National Grove of State Trees designated picnic area.

Guided tours are offered with three weeks advance notice for groups of 10 or more. There is a fee charged for group guided tours. For additional information, click [here](#) or call (202) 245-4521.

Mid-April through mid-October, [tram tours](#) are available on weekends and holidays. The 35-minute open-air tram ride is a taped narrative tour, which highlights the 446 acres of the Arboretum's gardens, collections, and natural areas. Tickets for the Tram Tours can be purchased the day of the tour (Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays only) at the ticket kiosk located in the parking lot near the R Street gate. Tram tour hours: 10:30 a.m. (only available if not previously reserved. Call prior if you are planning to take this tour), 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

National Arboretum Links

- [National Arboretum Website](#)
- [Tram Tours](#)
- [What's Blooming](#)
- [Current Hot Spots Listing](#)
- [Garden Displays, Collections & Structures](#)
- [Calendar of programs and activities](#)
- [Map of Arboretum Grounds](#)
- [Virtual Tours of the National Arboretum](#)

[Return to Tours and Tickets](#)